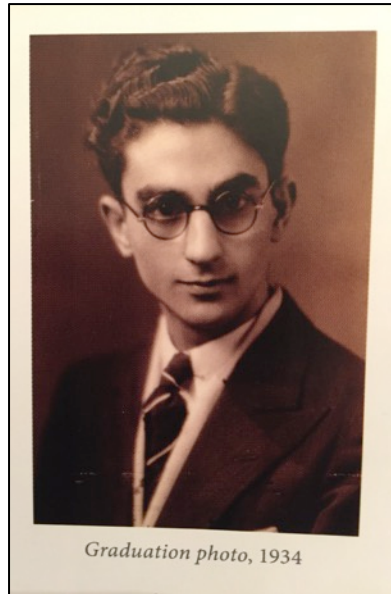


The Story of Tremont Artist Anthony Eterovich



By the Tremont History Project

Anthony William Eterovich was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 2, 1916 the youngest of three surviving children. His parents, George and Anna, had emigrated from the Dalmatian coast of what is now Croatia; in Cleveland, George worked in the steel mills. Somehow recognizing the essence of a gift in his son, George Eterovich saw to it that, from the time he was three, Anthony had a pencil in his hand and that he was provided with the materials he needed to express himself on paper. His father had a stroke during Eterovich's teen years. All three children were consequently sent to work; Anthony peeled potatoes at a local grocer's. George Eterovich died in 1936. During this turbulent time in his family, Anthony met and studied with John Teyral at the Merrick House Settlement. He also worked as Cartoonist for the school paper, the LINCOLN LOG.

In 1934, Eterovich won a scholarship to the Cleveland School of Art where he received a degree in portraiture in 1938. In addition, he began exhibiting in the Cleveland Museum of Art *May Shows* in 1934 at the very young age of 18. Over the course of his lengthy career Mr. Eterovich had a total of 55 works exhibited in *May Shows*, from 1934 to 1971. To earn money while in art school Eterovich started teaching at the Merrick House Settlement in 1936. He was encouraged as an artist and teacher by Viktor Schreckengost who occasionally turned classes over to Anthony for a few hours each week.

During World War II, Eterovich was drafted. While in the US Army he achieved the rank of Sergeant Tech Four and completed more than thirty portraits of his peers, colonels, captains and a three star general. He was called upon to draw maps and create topographical visualizations of landing and occupied areas and silhouette identification of enemy aircraft and other vehicles. In addition, he taught French while stationed in Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania from 1943-1944 and then Camp Gordon Johnston in Florida from 1944-1945.

After the army, Anthony went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters Degree in Art Education from Western Reserve University in 1947. In 1947, he won a First Price Purchase Award in the *May Show* exhibition at the Cleveland Museum of Art in the Etching category for *Suzanne*. He continued his education with honors in extended studies at Ohio University in 1948-1949 and the New York Art Students League from 1950-1954. In 1950, he married Alice Troyan, who had recently graduated from Kent State University with a major in Physical Education.

The pair spent their summers in New York City. Eterovich studied at the League and took his work to a Who's Who of art dealers at the time, including Edith Halpert and Harry Salpeter, while Alice studied with Martha Graham and Eric Hakins for at the time, modern dance was a component of physical education.



During his lifetime Anthony Eterovich participated in more than one hundred and fifty exhibitions, including the Cleveland Museum of Art May Shows; the Circle Gallery, the Butler Institute of American Art, the Chautauqua Institute, and many others.

Eterovich's work has been seen collectively in only two solo exhibitions during his lifetime. He had twenty oil paintings on view at the Women's City Club in 1956 and a charcoal drawing show at the Intown Club in 1963.

Anthony's paintings incorporate abstract portraiture or photo-realistic cityscapes. His work is known for color and imaginative, almost whimsical choices of subject matter. Eterovich was influenced by his immigrant Croatian family, living through the Great Depression and serving in the Army in World War II. Artistic influences on his work include Cleveland School artists John Teyral, Carl Gaertner, Edmund Bruckner, Viktor Schreckengost, and Daniel Boa to name a few. He admired Renoir, Degas and Manet for color, and Hopper and Estes for cityscapes.

Anthony Eterovich taught for more than forty years for the Cleveland Public School System. He chaired the art department at Rhodes High School from 1962 to 1978. In 2014 a classroom was named for him at the new Cleveland Institute of Art Joseph McCullough Building. His artworks are in the permanent collections of the Butler Institute of American Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve and ARTneo.

Information is from Anthony's Biography by his daughter, Karen Eterovich-Maguire